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Free Response, 10-24-10

· Who is "normal?" What is "normalcy"? How is it a problem in the world around you?

People that are considered normal in society are those that fit the dominant culture’s definition and assumptions of what a person should be.

· What are some of the issues that surround disability oppression on campus? In your life?

There are many buildings on campus that people with disabilities face obstacles in gaining access to. Such buildings are Sims Hall, which has access must is very time consuming in reaching, Link Hall which has multi-level floors without ramps to gain access to classrooms, and Carnegie Library which also has classrooms with only steps access them.

· How do we typically think of disability? What does it mean to redefine or re-imagine disability from a medical construct to a social, political, and cultural one?

Simi Linton explains in work “Reassigning Meaning” that society typically views disability as a deficit but this is not the case. According to Linton, to have a social, political, and cultural definition of disability instead of a medical one is just a way that society demonstrates its dominance in oppressing the people with disabilities.

· How does disability intersect with race, class, sexuality & gender? How does disability interface with technology, space, buildings, music, art, fashion, culture?

Disability intersects with class because if you have money then you can have better equipment which makes it easier to function in everyday life but if you don’t have money it makes it harder to function normally. Disability relies of technology, space, and buildings because if you have a disability it means that something is hindering you from functioning so if new innovations happen with technology then it’ll be easier to function in space and get to buildings.

· How is disability used as a vehicle to challenge conventional notions of beauty, the body?

Society does not typically portray a person with a disability as someone that is beautiful.

· What are some interfaces between (dis)ability and technology? How does technology help us re-imagine the ability/disability binary?

Technology makes the binary between disability and ability smaller because it makes the two group less different since technology helps people with disability become less disabled. When a person is confined to a wheelchair, they want the most up to date and technologic wheelchair so they can get from point a to point b more smoothly.

· How might the redefining of disability manifest in your field? Which definitions of disability are deployed in the discourse communities and disciplines through which you circulate?

Redefining disability in the field of engineering might occur with universal design and access because engineers innovate and try to make things easier for a user. I think that disability in the field of engineering is defined as something makes it harder to work and live your day to day but it doesn’t make it impossible or define who you are.

· Where are locations of (medical, cultural, social, historical) disability around you?

Disability in Syracuse is located wherever a person struggles to make through their routine agenda for any given day. Disability hinders a person from completing a task to reach any of their goals but it shouldn’t necessary stop the goal from being attained.

· What can you identify that is problematic around you? What can you critique?

Disability is problematic when a person with a disability wants to get to a class or an event and they cannot get there at all. People with disabilities face struggles in reaching any location in finding points of access every day. But when the person can’t get to a place at all, that is when a solution needs to be found.